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## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

King of creation, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. May every nation on Earth exalt You as King of kings and Lord of lords. Today, remind us of Your strength and grace, for You are mighty to save and gracious to all who seek Your face.

Lord, move in our midst and shower our Senators with wisdom and courage to unite in a common quest to solve the difficult issues of our times. Protect this Nation from dangers seen and unseen, and continue to equip our brave military and civilian protectors with Your full armor.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 9, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMEN-

THAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SMALL BUSINESS JOBS AND TAX RELIEF ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 341, S. 2237.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 2237, a bill to provide a temporary income tax credit for increased payroll and extend bonus depreciation for an additional year, and for other purposes.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be no rollcall votes today. The first vote of the week will be tomorrow at noon on the confirmation of the Fowlkes nomination.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 4018

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 4018 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct. The clerk will report the bill by title for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4018) to improve the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings on this legislation at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the measure will be placed on the calendar.

### FOCUSING ON JOBS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last month we got a lot done. It was incredibly productive. Congress and President Obama worked together to prevent interest rates from doubling for more than 7 million college students, and we also worked to put 2.8 million Americans back to work or create new jobs and to rebuild our crumbling roads, bridges, and other parts of our transportation system. The Senate passed an FDA bill, which was so necessary to focus on why we have, among other things, shortages of lifesaving drugs. We also passed something that will allow the construction industry to go forward, which is flood insurance for the entire country. We passed a farm bill that will strengthen the agriculture industry and support some 16 million jobs.

We were able to accomplish this much last month because Republicans and Democrats worked together and compromised. Rather than wasting time participating in political theater, we actually legislated.

I hoped to continue that productive process in this work period, characterized by cooperation between lawmakers on both sides of the Capitol and in both Chambers. Unfortunately, we already know that our colleagues in the House are going to waste much of this short work period refighting very old battles.

Republicans had indicated they would support the ruling of the Supreme Court. They, in fact, said the Supreme Court is going to decide this matter regarding affordable health care. Well, they have now changed their tune. Mitt Romney has said he would nominate Supreme Court Justices just like Justice Roberts. I wonder if he is saying that to his rightwing base today.

But now that the Court has upheld this landmark health care reform with the majority decision, written by Justice Roberts, Republicans refuse to admit that the matter is settled. This

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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